

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

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H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
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TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIOTITY
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY
USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
USMISSION NATO PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 164989

BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEC

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EEC, PFOR, PORG, ILO, BE

SUBJECT: EC NINE DEMARCHE ON ILO

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REF: BRUSSELS 7889

1. BELGIAN AMBASSADOR VAN CAUWENBERG MADE EC NINE DEMARCHE
ON ILO (REFTEL) TO DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER JULY 14.
STRESSING THE NINE'S CONCERN OVER POSSIBLE IMPACT OF A
U.S. WITHDRAWAL -- AND THE FACT THAT DEMARCHE APPROVED BY
FOREIGN MINISTERS -- VAN CAUWENBERG CONVEYED OFFICIAL

REQUEST FOR U.S./EC NINE CONSULTATIONS IN GENEVA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND LEFT "NON-OFFICIAL" PAPER CONTAINING EC NINE VIEWS ON ILO (SEE TEXT BELOW).

2. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY CONFIRMED THAT WE WELCOME CONSULTATIONS WITH THE NINE AND INDICATED THAT ASSISTANT SECRETARY MAYNES COULD MEET WITH EC NINE REPRESENTATIVES NO DECISION HAD BEEN MADE ON CONTINUED U.S. MEMBERSHIP, BUT URGED THE EC TO PRESS FOR REFORMS WITHIN ILO, WHATEVER OUR ULTIMATE DECISION.

3. TEXT OF EC NON-OFFICIAL PAPER FOLLOWS. BEGIN TEXT.

THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE NINE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY COUNTRIES, MEETING ON JULY 12TH, DISCUSSED THE QUESTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION AND ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE SITUATION IN WHICH THE ORGANIZATION FINDS ITSELF; THIS SITUATION RUNS THE RISK OF BECOMING WORSE FOLLOWING THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE UNITED STATES.

THEY CONSIDER THAT THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE UNITED STATES FROM THE ORGANIZATION WOULD LEAD TO AN IMBALANCE FROM WHICH THE SOVIET UNION COULD PROFIT AND WHICH MIGHT BRING ABOUT THE COLLAPSE OF THE ORGANIZATION.

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MOREOVER, THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE UNITED STATES WOULD INEVITABLY HAVE HARMFUL CONSEQUENCES FOR NORTH-SOUTH RELATIONS AS A WHOLE. IT WOULD ALSO CREATE A DANGEROUS PRECEDENT FOR ALL SPECIALIZED AGENCIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

THE NINE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT IN SPITE OF THE DIFFICULTIES IT IS IN THE INTEREST OF THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ENSURE THAT THE ORGANIZATION REMAIN A USEFUL INSTRUMENT FOR SETTING AND MONITORING NORMS OF LABOR WITHIN A UNIVERSAL PLAN AS WELL AS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION WHICH CONSTITUTES AN IMPORTANT ASPECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

SUCH AN EFFORT DEMANDS AN ACTIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE ATTITUDE FROM THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES WHICH MUST COOPERATE CLOSELY WITHIN THE ORGANIZATION. THUS THE NINE ATTACH PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE TO THE CONTINUATION AND STRENGTHENING OF THE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE IMEC (INDUSTRIALIZED MARKET ECONOMY COUNTRIES) GROUP COUNTRIES.

FOR THE ILO TO REMAIN A USEFUL AND EFFECTIVE ORGANIZATION,

IT WILL BE NECESSARY

-- ON THE ONE HAND, TO PRESERVE THE PRINCIPLES AND METHODS VITAL TO THE FUNCTIONING OF THE ORGANIZATION: TRIPARTISM, DUE PROCESS AND NON-SELECTIVITY IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS;

-- ON THE OTHER HAND, TO AVOID SITUATIONS OF CONFRONTATION BY BEARING IN MIND CERTAIN ASPIRATIONS OF THE DEVELOPING NATIONS. THE NINE CONSIDER THAT THESE OBJECTIVES CAN STILL BE ACHIEVED AND THAT UNITED STATES PARTICIPATION IS NECESSARY FOR THIS PURPOSE.

THE NINE TOO ARE SERIOUSLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE WORKING
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OF THE ILO AND THEY WOULD WELCOME FURTHER CONSULTATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES IN GENEVA AT AN EARLY DATE IN VIEW OF EXAMINING WAYS OF FINDING THE MOST SATISFACTORY ANSWER TO THEIR RESPECTIVE PREOCCUPATIONS.

IT IS THE BELIEF OF THE NINE THAT A FAVORABLE RESULT TO WESTERN EFFORTS CAN STILL BE ACHIEVED SINCE SOME UNDERSTANDING FOR THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY THE UNITED STATES HAS RECENTLY APPEARED TO BE SHARED BY A LARGE NUMBER OF ILO MEMBER STATES.

END TEXT. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Drafter: ROHOMME
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Expiration:
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